

Hansen, Jon

From: Gilson, Al
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Subject: I-90 widening project to resume



NEWS

Eastern Region Public Affairs, 2714 N. Mayfair, Spokane, WA 99207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Al Gilson, Public Information Officer, (509) 324-6015
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Work on Interstate 90 widening project in Spokane Valley resumes next week

Traffic switch-over in mid-March

Work will resume on the widening project for Interstate 90 between the Argonne Road Interchange and the Sullivan Road Interchange in the Spokane Valley next week. Motorists will see some preparation work on the eastbound shoulders and noise walls during the week as the contractor makes the arrangements needed to reconfigure the traffic in a couple of weeks.

Last season the contractor completed the widening and new concrete surface for the eastbound freeway in this section and some of the new surface has been in use since late October. This year the work will be reversed and the existing westbound freeway will be completely rebuilt with an added third lane and concrete pavement.

Work items coming up include the relocation of the protective traffic barriers and reconfiguration of the eastbound traffic. On Saturday, February 26th, depending on weather, eastbound I-90 traffic will be reduced to one lane while the contractor moves barrier and eastbound traffic into the temporary alignment for the season. Eastbound motorists should expect possible congestion and slow traffic during this process. Westbound traffic will not be impacted during this work although westbound merging distances continue to be reduced.

In mid-March, the reconfiguration process will continue with the movement of westbound traffic over to its temporary location on the new concrete next to the eastbound lanes. With this completed, the contractor will be able to remove the existing asphalt, prepare the new base layer, and construct the new concrete lanes. One important note, when the traffic is fully relocated to its temporary configuration, the westbound Evergreen Road on and off ramps will be closed. That closure will remain in place until November 1. The eastbound Evergreen Road on and off ramps will be open.

The legal speed limit in this section remains 50 mph. Motorists need to be extremely alert within this work zone and watch for slowing and merging traffic near on-ramps and possible construction traffic merging into the travel lanes from the shoulder or median.

This project will continue the process of widening Interstate 90 in the Spokane Valley. When complete, this five-mile job adds an additional through lane in each direction on I-90. In addition, Portland Cement Concrete

Pavement will be used for the driving surface. This concrete roadway will be more resistant to wear caused by studded tires and the high traffic volumes in this area.

Traffic is expected to be in its permanent configuration by November 1st, 2005 with the additional lanes in place. Some minor items will remain to be completed that should not impact motorists through next winter.

The project should be finished in early 2006. Scarsella Brothers, Inc. of Seattle is the prime contractor on the project with a construction bid of \$23.9 million. This construction is fully funded by the additional five-cent fuel tax that was a part of the transportation package passed by the Legislature in 2003.

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to Sullivan S...